**Claim Amendments**

1. (Original) A surgical instrument comprising:

an instrument handle;

a tubular sleeve projecting from the instrument handle;

a plastic optic fiber extending through the handle and the sleeve to a distal end portion that projects from the sleeve, the distal end portion of the optic fiber having an adjustable bend therein.

2. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising::

the distal end portion of the optic fiber is retractable into the sleeve.

3. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:

the sleeve projects straight from the handle and the distal end portion of the optic fiber bends relative to the sleeve as it projects from the sleeve.

4. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:

the sleeve is a rigid tube that projects from the handle and the distal end portion of the optic fiber has a preformed bend that is straightened when the distal end portion is retracted into the tube of the sleeve and bends when the distal end portion is extended from the tube of the sleeve.

5. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:

the handle has a mechanism that is connected to the sleeve and selectively moves the sleeve between pushed forward and pulled back positions of the sleeve relative to the handle.

6. (Original) The instrument of Claim 5, further comprising:

the optic fiber is held stationary relative to the handle and in the pushed forward position of the sleeve the distal end portion of the optic fiber is entirely contained in the sleeve and in the pulled back position of the sleeve the distal end portion of the optic fiber projects from the sleeve.

7. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:
a hollow interior bore extends through the optic fiber.

8. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:
the distal end portion of the optic fiber is formed of a thermoplastic and is pre-bent at an angle.

9. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:
the optic fiber is the only optic fiber that passes through the handle and the sleeve.

10. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:
the instrument is an illuminating probe.

11. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:
the plastic is polymethylmethacrylate.

12. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:
the tubular sleeve has an interior surface and there is an air gap between the sleeve interior surface and the optic fiber in the sleeve.

13. (Original) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:
the tubular sleeve has an interior surface and a layer of sliding material between the sleeve interior surface and the optic fiber in the sleeve.

14. (Original) The instrument of Claim 13, further comprising:
the layer of sliding material is located in only a portion of the sleeve creating an air gap between the sleeve interior surface and the optic fiber where the layer of sliding materiel is not located.

15. (Original) A surgical instrument comprising:

an instrument handle;

a tubular sleeve projecting from the handle;

a plastic optic fiber extending through the handle and the sleeve to a distal end portion of the fiber; and

a mechanism on the handle and connected to the sleeve to selectively move the sleeve between a pushed forward position of the sleeve where the sleeve projects a first distance from the handle and a pulled back position of the sleeve where the sleeve projects a second distance from the handle that is less than the first distance.

16. (Original) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the optic fiber is secured stationary to the handle and a distal end portion of the optic fiber projects from the sleeve when the sleeve is moved to the pulled back position and the distal end portion of the optic fiber is entirely contained in the sleeve when the sleeve is moved to the pushed forward position.

17. (Original) The instrument of Claim 16, further comprising:

the distal end portion of the fiber has a bend formed therein.

18. (Original) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

a hollow interior bore extends through the optic fiber.

19. (Original) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the distal end portion of the optic fiber is formed of a thermoplastic and is pre-bent at an angle.

20. (Original) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the sleeve is a rigid tube that projects from the handle and the distal end portion of the optic fiber has a preformed bend that is straightened when the distal end portion is retracted into the tube of the sleeve and bends when the distal end portion is extended from the tube of the sleeve.

21. (Original) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the sleeve projects straight from the handle and the distal end portion of the optic fiber bends relative to the sleeve as it projects from the sleeve.

22. (Original) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the optic fiber is the only optic fiber that passes through the handle and the sleeve.

23. (Original) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the plastic is polymethylmethacrylate.

24. (Original) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the tubular sleeve has an interior surface and there is an air gap between the sleeve interior surface and the optic fiber in the sleeve.

25. (Original) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the tubular sleeve has an interior surface and a layer of sliding material between the sleeve interior surface and the optic fiber in the sleeve.

26. (Original) The instrument of Claim 25, further comprising:

the layer of sliding material is located in only a portion of the sleeve creating an air gap between the sleeve interior surface and the optic fiber where the layer of sliding material is not located.

27. (New) The instrument of Claim 1, further comprising:

the handle being elongated and narrow and having opposite proximal and distal ends;

the sleeve projecting from the handle distal end;

a finger pad is mounted on the handle adjacent the handle distal end, the finger pad being movable on the handle between a pushed forward position and a

pulled back position of the finger pad relative to the handle, and the finger pad being operatively connected to the optic fiber to move the optic fiber relative to the handle and sleeve in response to the finger pad being moved between the pushed forward and pulled back positions of the finger pad relative to the handle.

28. (New) The instrument of Claim 27, further comprising:

the finger pad being positioned on a side of the handle where the finger pad is accessible by a finger of a surgeon's hand holding the handle.

29. (New) The instrument of Claim 27, further comprising:

the handle having an axial slot in a side of the handle;

the optic fiber extending through the slot; and,

the finger pad extending into the slot and being operatively connected to the optic fiber in the slot.

30. (New) The instrument of Claim 29, further comprising:

the optic fiber extending through the finger pad.

31. (New) The instrument of Claim 29, further comprising:

a hollow bore extending through the handle between the handle proximal and distal ends, the hollow bore intersecting the slot, and the optic fiber extending through the hollow bore for sliding movement of the optic fiber in the hollow bore.

32. (New) The instrument of Claim 27, further comprising:

the handle being dimensioned as a pencil to fit comfortably in a surgeon's hand.

33. (New) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the handle being elongated and having opposite proximal and distal ends;

the sleeve projecting from the handle distal end; and,

the mechanism including a finger pad that is mounted at a side of the handle between the handle proximal and distal ends where the finger pad is accessible by a finger of a surgeon's hand holding the handle, the finger pad being operatively connected to the optic fiber for movement of the optic fiber relative to the handle in response to movement of the finger pad relative to the handle.

34. (New) The instrument of Claim 33, further comprising:

the finger pad being mounted on the handle adjacent the handle distal end.

35. (New) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the handle being dimensioned as a pencil to fit comfortably in a surgeon's hand.

36. (New) The instrument of Claim 15, further comprising:

the handle having a slot in a side of the handle;

the optic fiber extending through the slot; and,

the mechanism including a finger pad that extends into the slot for movement of the finger pad in the slot between pushed forward and pulled back positions of the finger pad relative to the slot, the finger pad being operatively connected to the optic fiber to move the optic fiber between the pushed forward and pulled back positions of the optic fiber relative to the handle in response to the finger pad moving between the respective pushed forward and pulled back positions of the finger pad relative to the slot.

37. (New) The instrument of Claim 36, further comprising:

the optic fiber extending through the finger pad.

38. (New) The instrument of Claim 36, further comprising:

a hollow bore extending through the handle and intersecting the slot; and,

the optic fiber extending through the hollow bore for sliding movement of the optic fiber in the hollow bore.